

## Prepare the Way to Advent: An Anti-racism Calendar

**Week One - Hope:** We have hope in God’s loving purposes as we await the fulfillment of justice.

This first week, we will spend time in reflection as we acknowledge some of the ways racism impacts our lives so that we may be better prepare to receive the love of God into our hearts at Christmas

Concentrate on slowing down. Consider what controlled your time this week and who controlled it. What did it take you away from?	When have you stepped out of your comfort zone when addressing issues of race? What did you need to do it? How can you become less defensive in these discussions?	Reflect on the past week. When did your sense of “rightness” not allow an opportunity for you to offer grace instead?	What one thing could you do today that would be a reclamation of the hope of the end of racism? Where would you be willing to “march”?	Consider a church tradition that you love that has/was been upended by the pandemic. Did you imagine a new way of expression?	How would your experience of the Holy Family been different if you had grown up with a BIPOC crèche?	Today we consider how we define community and we ask, what is your first reaction when you hear someone speaking a language other than English? Why?
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## Week Two - Love: In the Incarnation, God acted on our behalf. And now we act on God’s.

This second week, we will spend time in action by serving others so that we may be better prepare to receive the love of God into our hearts at Christmas

Take some time today and listen to music by Black artists such as Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Chevalier de Saint-George, and Francis Johnson for classical music, as well as Mahalia Jackson, Thelonious Monk and Sam Cooke.	Call someone with a differing view than you on race and ask them to share how they got to where they are, especially if you disagree. How can we call each other in rather than calling another out?	Become consciously aware today of all the different people who serve you in one way or another. Make an effort to make eye contact and thank each one.	In the Magnificat Mary sings, “He fills the hungry with good things” Plan on doing just that during Advent. There are many places that serve the hungry on the North Shore and Boston. Give of your time.	Joseph took responsibility for one “not his own,” his adopted son Jesus. Find one action you can take to spend time with someone different than you that could lead to a sense of belonging to one another.	This year, put out a non-white crèche. Find a set with BIPOC or use other objects for your crèche. Change your image from a white Holy Family to one which is Palestinian.	Order something or shop from a Black owned business today.
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## Week Three - Peace: In Jesus, we have peace through justice rather than peace through victory

This third week, we will consider how we practice peace as we are guided by reflections

Read this poem by Langston Hughes <a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/52005/i-look-at-the-world">https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/52005/i-look-at-the-world</a>  What world do you imagine in your mind?	Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,...and being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death. - Philippians 2:5-8 Where might you need more “humility” in your life?	“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” - Rev./Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  How can you be a light to child of color?	It is time to think about the Messiah in a new way. The love of God means responsibility to each other. If you really love one person, you will love all people. -James Baldwin How can you be responsible to someone you haven’t met?	“Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, [and] it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are.” - Hafsat Abiola How can you support another in their endeavors today?	“An old world is dying, and a new one, kicking in the belly of its mother, announces it is ready to be born. This birth will not be easy... - James Baldwin How can we be midwives in the birth of antiracism?	“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.” — Jimi Hendrix  Where do you seek power more than love in your life? How can this change?
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## Week Four - Joy: In the Incarnation, we celebrate the joyous birth of Love

This final week, we will watch videos about Black Joy

Black joy is ____  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hsTUkyh164">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hsTUkyh164</a>	Watch 12 year old Joy Amisshah tell us what Black Joy means to her  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82rbhQ_qS1U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82rbhQ_qS1U</a>	Dance Theatre of Harlem  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1Ybm6ToJBI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1Ybm6ToJBI</a>	Black Joy Manifesto  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQPXJ-BMaEI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQPXJ-BMaEI</a>	Chineke! Orchestra—predominantly BIPOC musicians  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOKGB084Hv4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOKGB084Hv4</a>	Christmas Eve—Come share the joy of Jesus’ birth at church at 4:00 pm or at 7:00 pm	<b>Christmas!</b>
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